

**MADFREEDOM**

none of us is **free** until all of us are **free**

# MADFREEDOM: OVERVIEW

Wilda L. White, Founder  
House Committee on Health Care  
January 27, 2023

# What is MadFreedom?

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- Non-profit, 501 (c)(4), human and civil rights advocacy corporation based in Poultney, Vermont with an international reach
- Founded in 2020 by Wilda L. White

# MadFreedom's Vision



A world where every person regardless of race, gender, sexuality, ableness, class and mental state has the freedom to live their life on their own terms without coercion and with equality under the law.

# MadFreedom's Mission



To secure political power and influence to end the discrimination and oppression of people based on perceived mental state.



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MadFreedom: Overview

WHY MADFREEDOM?

# About the founder



**Wilda L. White**

**Education:**

JD, MBA

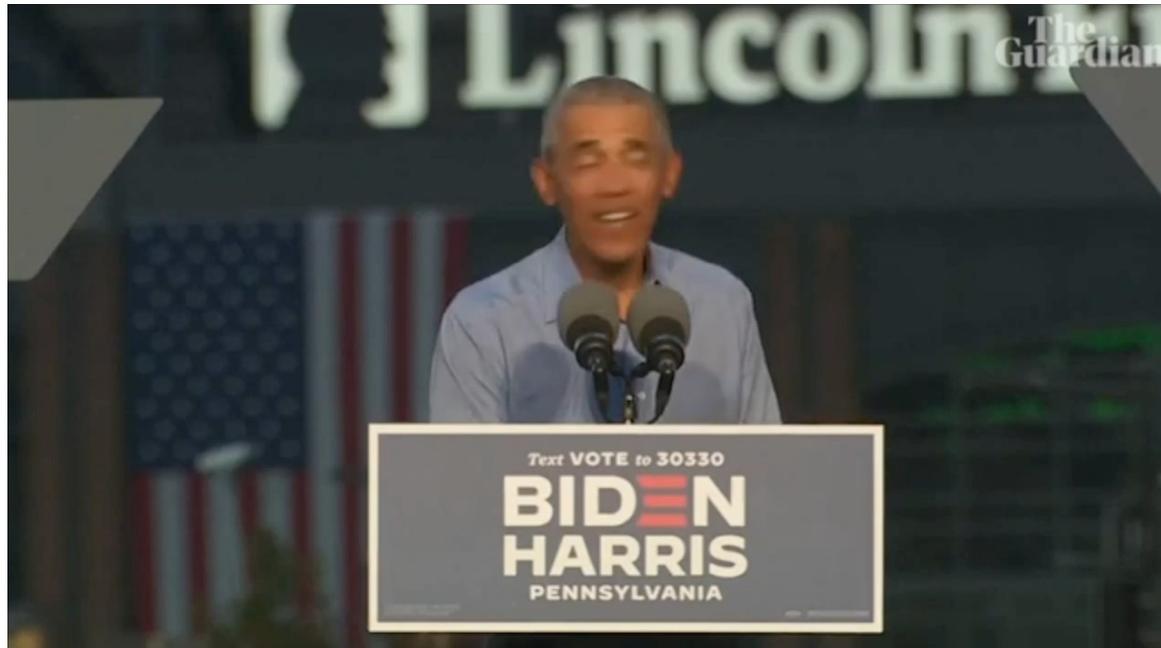
**Occupation:**

Management Consultant

## Experience

- Principal, Wilda L. White Consulting
- Founder, MadFreedom, Inc.
- Chair, Mental Health Crisis Response Commission
- Executive Director, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors
- Executive Director, Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley School of Law
- Partner, Walker, Hamilton & White
- Management Consultant, McKinsey and Co.

# America's leadership



“We wouldn’t tolerate it from a high school principal. We wouldn’t tolerate it from a coach. We wouldn’t tolerate it from a co-worker. We wouldn’t tolerate it in our family, except for maybe crazy uncle somewhere, you know, yeah, he’s a ...

# America's newspaper

none of us  
is  
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until  
all of us

The New York Times

Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Is Mr. Trump Nuts?

By The Editorial Board

Jan. 10, 2018

f WhatsApp Twitter Email Print 1448



Jordan Awan

The New York Times

Opinion

## Who's the Real American Psycho?



By Maureen Dowd  
Opinion Columnist

Nov. 10, 2018

f WhatsApp Twitter Email Print 1111



The Dark Knight reborn: Christian Bale as Dick Cheney in Adam McKay's new film, "Vice." Greig Fraser/Annapurna Pictures

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump is running wild — and running scared.

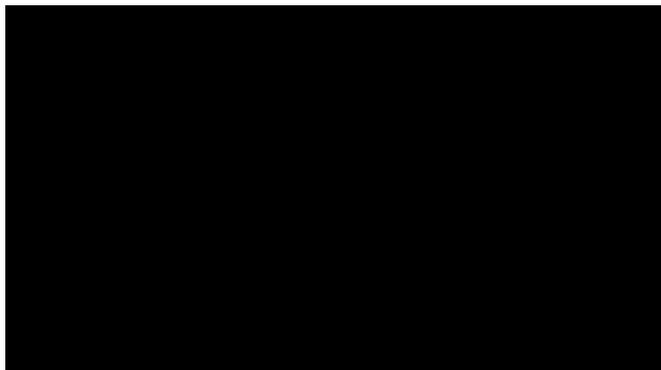
# Crazy: A Universal Epithet



## Tesla Model S P85D Insane Mode Launch Blows Minds



**CRAZY  
AXES**



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

Follow

I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came..

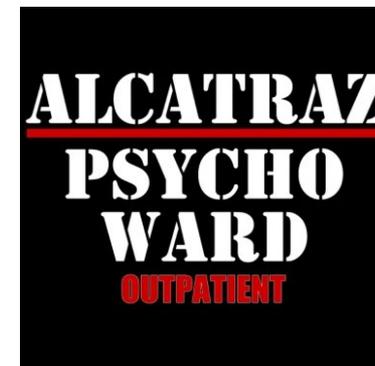
8:52 AM - Jun 29, 2017

40,539 21,735 82,995



## White House: Obama 'flip' in referring to 'crazies'

BY JORDAN FABIAN - 08/25/15 03:11 PM EDT



# Employment Discrimination



58%

Americans who do not want people with mental illness in their workplaces

50%

Employers reluctant to hire someone with a past psychiatric history

70%

Employers reluctant to hire someone currently taking antipsychotic medications

25%

Employers who would fire someone who had not disclosed a mental illness

# Scapegoats for gun violence



“And it’s fair to say that anybody who does this has a sickness in their minds, regardless of what they think their motivations may be.”



“Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun.”

# Additional Disparities



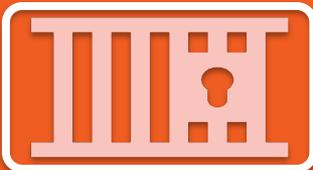
68% do not want someone with mental illness marrying into their family



16 times more likely to be killed by police



Die 20 to 25 years prematurely



Disproportionately incarcerated



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MadFreedom: Overview

# MADFREEDOM ACTIVITIES

# Cultural Activism



## C-Word Campaign

- Raise consciousness about relationship between stigma and oppression and normalization of words such as crazy, nuts, insane, psycho to disparage

## Mad Pride Celebration

- Annual July event coincides with Bastille Day
- Most recently held in Burlington
- March, speeches, music, poetry, skits, lunch, commemorative t-shirts

## Original Research and Reports

- Emergency Room prolonged waits
- Peer respites
- Mental Health Peer Support Worker certification

## Media Advocacy

- Guest Essays
- Letters to the Editor
- Keynote presentations

# C-Word Pledge



Take  
the  
**MADFREEDOM.**  
C-Word Pledge

none of us is **free** until all of us are **free**

"I pledge  
not to use words  
like CRAZY to put down  
people or things and  
to hold myself accountable  
by donating to  
**MadFreedom**  
when I slip."



[DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY](#)

## TO GET STARTED:

- Download app
- Enter contact information
- Set an amount to deposit for each use of the C-word
- Take pledge and link to a checking account.

# Mad Pride Day Celebration

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# Berlin, Germany Keynote



# Legislative Activism



## Criminal Justice Council

- Expanded membership of State Commission that oversees law enforcement to include a psychiatric survivor

## Law Enforcement Use of Force

- Deadly force as a last resort
- Must consider individual's mental impairment in deciding how much force to use, if any
- Deadly force prohibited if subjects are threatening only themselves

## Sexual consent law

- Vermont's current law implies that people with psychiatric and developmental disabilities are unable to consent to sex
- MadFreedom successfully advocated for disability neutral consent law

## Competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense

- Ensured defendants receive copy of competency evaluation
- Ensured defendants receive timely examination of their mental state at time of alleged crime, if applicable

# Legislative Priorities



## Warrants for Emergency Examination

- Stop expansion of coercion in the mental health system
- End coercion in the mental health system

## Marriage

- Repeal prohibition forbidding individuals with severe psychiatric disabilities from marrying (18 VSA § 5142)

## Peer Certification

- Adequate funding for implementation of statewide mental health peer worker certification (Governor's Budget Proposal includes \$187.5K to support credentialing)

## Competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense

- Competency restoration models that do not include forced drugging
- Stop conflation of mental illness and criminality and violence



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MadFreedom  
P. O. Box 38  
Poultney, VT 05764-0038  
[info@madfreedom.org](mailto:info@madfreedom.org)

T: (833) 777-4557  
F: (802) 775-5284  
madfreedom.org